

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 OES-05

OPIC-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 303771

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EI

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON GULF/ANGOLA SITUATION

REF: DUBLIN 2338

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREVIOUSLY PREPARED BY DEPARTMENT IS FORWARDED FOR THE EMBASSY'S INFORMATION AND USE.

2. Q: WE UNDERSTAND THAT GULF HAS SUSPENDED ITS OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA, AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS?

A: GULF OFFICIALS MET OR COMMUNICATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT A NUMBER OF TIMES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. GULF WISHED TO BE KEPT INFORMED ABOUT THE SECURITY SITUATION AND POSSIBILITIES THAT A COALITION GOVERNMENT REPRESENTING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE WOULD BE FORMULATED. THEY ALSO WANTED

TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ABOUT PAYMENT OF TAXES AND ROYALTIES.  
THE MANY OPTIONS OPEN TO GULF WERE CAREFULLY EXAMINED.

3. Q: WHAT WERE THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS?

A: UNDER TERMS OF ITS CONCESSION THE PAYMENTS ARE DUE

THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT OF  
ANGOLA AT THE PRESENT TIME. THEREFORE, IN OUR VIEW,  
THERE WAS NO PROPERLY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY TO MAKE THE  
PAYMENTS TO AT THIS TIME. THERE ARE TWO COMPETING RE-  
GIMES EACH CLAIMING TO BE THE LAWFUL GOVERNMENT OF  
ANGOLA AT PRESENT.

4. Q: DID THE DEPARTMENT TELL GULF NOT TO PAY THE  
MPLA?

A: THE MPLA REGIME REPRESENTS A MINORITY OF THE PEOPLE  
AND OCCUPIES LESS THAN THIRTY PERCENT OF THE TERRITORY  
OF ANGOLA. WE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT PAYMENT TO THE  
MPLA WOULD NOT BE A PAYMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA.  
WE TOOK THE POSITION THAT PAYMENTS SHOULD AWAIT THE EMER-  
GENCE OF A BROADLY RECOGNIZED GOVERNMENT REPRESENTING THE  
PEOPLE AND TERRITORY OF ANGOLA, AND NOT BE MADE TO JUST  
ONE FACTION. TO DO SO COULD LEAVE GULF OPEN TO CON-  
SIDERABLE FUTURE LITIGATION.

5. Q: DID THE DEPARTMENT ORDER GULF TO SUSPEND OPERA-  
TIONS?

A: NO IT IS NOT LEGALLY POSSIBLE FOR US TO "ORDER" GULF  
TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, WE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN  
ABOUT THE SERIOUS AND WORSENING SECURITY SITUATION IN  
ANGOLA--INCLUDING THE FUELING OF THE WAR BY THE LARGE-  
SCALE INTRODUCTION OF ARMS, MUNITIONS AND FOREIGN TROOPS--  
AND WHAT IT MEANT FOR THE SAFETY OF THE FEW REMAINING  
AMERICAN AS WELL AS GULF'S PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS THERE.  
IN VIEW OF DETERIORATING CONDITIONS, WE HAVE REITERATED  
TO THEM OUR STRONGEST ADVICE TO EVACUATE THEIR PERSONNEL  
EVEN THOUGH THIS MIGHT MEAN SUSPENDING OPERATIONS FOR A  
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TIME, AND WE ASKED THEM TO ACT URGENTLY ON OUR REQUEST.

6. (IF PRESSED ON THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN AN "ORDER" AND  
A "REQUEST,, YOU MAY SAY THE FOLLOWING: THE DEPARTMENT  
OF STATE HAS NO AUTHORITY TO GIVE ORDERS TO A PRIVATE COR-  
PORATION. WE REQUESTED GULF TO EVACUATE ITS PERSONNEL.  
THAT IS THE MOST WE COULD DO, AND WE UNDERSTOOD FROM OUR  
DISCUSSIONS WITH GULF OFFICIALS THAT THE COMPANY WOULD

COMPLY WITH OUR REQUEST.)

7. FOLLOWING IS GULF OIL STATEMENT: BEGIN TEXT. GULF OIL CORPORATION ANNOUNCES THAT IT HAS BEEN FORCED TO WITHDRAW ITS PERSONNEL FROM ANGOLA AND TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS THERE TEMPORARILY. BORDER WARFARE AND CONTINUED CIVIL WAR IN ANGOLA HAS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR

THE MAINTENANCE OF OPERATIONS THERE. FURTHERMORE, THE US STATE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED GULF TO PROMPTLY EVACUATE ITS PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS FROM ANGOLA FOR REASONS OF SAFETY.

CONTENDING FACTIONS IN ANGOLA WARRING FOR CONTROL FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE LAST MONTH HAVE MADE CONFLICTING REQUESTS RELATIVE TO THE PAYMENT FROM GULF OF THE TAXES AND ROYALTIES DUE THE STATE OF ANGOLA ON DECEMBER 31, 1975 AND JANUARY 15, 1976 IN THE APPROXIMATE AMOUNTS OF DOLS 95,000,000 AND DOLS 30,000,000 RESPECTIVELY. IN VIEW OF THESE CONFLICTING REQUESTS, PAYMENTS MADE TO ANY ONE WOULD PLACE GULF IN AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION. THEREFORE, GULF WILL MAINTAIN THESE FUNDS IN A SPECIAL INTEREST BEARING ACCOUNT TO BE HELD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE STATE OF ANGOLA. THESE AMOUNTS WILL BECOME PAYABLE TO THE STATE OF ANGOLA WHEN IT HAS A GOVERNMENT THAT IS IN CONTROL OF THE TERRITORY AND POPULATION AND THIS GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN GENERALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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